



Amisha Patel
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CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

January 27, 2006

Dr. Robert Sawyer
Chairman
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

**RE: CONTINUATION OF THE ARB/RAILROAD STATEWIDE AGREEMENT
SUPPORT**

Dear Dr. Sawyer:

The California Chamber of Commerce, the largest broad-based business advocate, representing over 15,000 members, supports leaving the current Statewide Rail Yard Agreement in effect.

Reducing emissions is a goal shared by all Californians, and should be accomplished in a manner that will not hinder California's economy. The Railroad Statewide Agreement addresses this idea by inviting all stakeholders to discuss long-term emissions reduction strategies. It encourages the use of cleaner technologies by providing investment opportunities for industries. This collaborative effort between the State Air Resources Board and the participating railroads, achieves a 20% reduction in locomotive particulate emissions from rail yards statewide. These reductions could not have been achieved any other way. The agreement is a good representation of a public-private partnership that will benefit all Californians.

In addition, the clarification of the release clause explanation attached to the ARB status report is essential to understanding how the MOU will be implemented. This clause ensures statewide consistency and prevents the formation of a patchwork of regulations that could potentially hamper goods movement in California with no added benefit to the environment.

With implementation well underway, it is vital that the ARB continue to support the agreement and its goals for the future. All parties have agreed upon the roadmap and progress is being made. Furthermore, delays in implementation of the agreement have been avoided because of the nature of this cooperative effort. With ongoing support and collaboration, California will be on track to achieve the 20 percent reduction in emissions as expressed in the agreement.

We urge you to leave the current agreement in place so the participating parties can continue to implement this beneficial program for California.

Sincerely,

Amisha Patel
Policy Analyst